

In fact

For The Millions Who Want a Free Press

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George Seldes, Editor; Bruce Minton, Associate Editor

U. S. Marches to War; People Oppose War

1. There is no neutrality and America is now an active participant in the war.
2. There is no doubt that there is a party in Washington which, one inch at a time, one little step after another, as fast as it thinks the American people can be drawn along, is leading us into this war. That is the war party. And the President of the United States is the leader of this party.
3. The public opinion polls show a reduction in number of Americans opposed to war, but still an overwhelming majority for peace. It is the duty of the American press to change public opinion, as it did, 1914-1917, to bring America into the European conflict.

(Paragraph One is from the Whaley-Eaton Service's "Sphere"; paragraph 2 is by John T. Flynn in the New Republic; paragraph 3 is our own.)

The people are 88% against participation; the press is facing a tremendous job of converting the public. It is doing it by fomenting the present great war scare instead of printing simple truths such as the foregoing.

Whom Shall We Fight? For What?

The following reasons for going to war have been headlined in the press:

1. A Hitler victory, which will take him to Canada; 2. A Hitler victory, which will be followed by his invasion of South America; 3. Fifth Column, or radical uprising in Mexico; 4. Hemisphere defense; 5. All sorts of stories of invasion from elsewhere.

The President's opening gun, the creation of the war scare, the story of an airplane invasion from abroad, has been termed a hoax by competent military men, notably aviators, who say it is impossible for bombers to harm us.

However, the war scare makers say Hitler will get the British fleet when he conquers England and will then occupy Canada, bringing the war home to us.

There are rumors and conjectures, headlines, war scares, but the American people are not being told the facts: if danger of invasion really exists, or if, on the other hand, the war scare is merely a means of gaining the business of Latin America.

Newspapers Lead the War Hysteria

The New York Herald Tribune's frank advocacy of going to war for England has been followed by numerous newspapers dropping their isolationist policies. Big and little papers now want American boys to be shot and wounded on foreign soil. The Gary Indiana Post-Tribune wants a war declaration. The powerful Philadelphia Inquirer wants no army sent, but the Johnson Act repealed and everything done which, the Nye-Vandenberg Munitions Committee has proved, forces a nation into war. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, editor of Foreign Affairs, is given a front page 2-column head in the New York Times for an appeal for war supplies for the Allies; William Allen White, head of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, is enlisting newspaper editors and publishers; the Scripps-Howard World Telegram, admitting that loans are the first steps to an expeditionary force, suggests ways of barter.

In Minnesota, Farmer-Labor Party locals and unions are signing the following resolutions:

"Whereas, the editors and publishers of the bigger newspaper chains in the United States, and also the editors and publishers of the leading periodicals are evidencing increasing concern for the empire of his Majesty George VI of Britain and the larger French banking houses . . . Resolved . . . that the aforementioned editors and publishers . . . be permitted to enlist individually or as a body in the armed forces of . . . Great Britain . . . that the Editor & Publisher Expeditionary Force be granted . . . the honor of . . . the hazardous frontline position . . . [that their crosses shall be] inscribed with the words 'Here Lies.'"

Is U. S. Defense Aggressive?

Defense, according to Washington progressives, planned by Roosevelt is not designed primarily to safeguard America. All people demand defense of our democracy, but present administration plans, claim critics, have other aims:

1. To increase American domination in Latin America (through invasion if necessary) thus killing people's democratic movements in this Hemisphere.
2. To prepare America for subsequent military intervention in Europe.

Straws in the Wind?

FOR the first time since the war started, French censors allowed Henri de Karelis, the only Nationalist member of the Chamber of Deputies to vote against the Munich Pact, to campaign editorially for a French understanding with the Soviet Union. Karelis advocates concessions to Moscow, more friendly attitudes toward Russia. Up to mid-May, the French press was forbidden to mention the Soviet Union without denouncing it.

This, plus the appointments of Sir Stafford Cripps and Eirik Labonne respectively as British and French ambassadors to Moscow, has led to wild rumors in "informed" Washington circles. "Insiders" declare that a rapprochement between the Allies and Russia is all-important. So much so, they predict, without proof, that London is about to send Edouard Benes, former Czechoslovakian President, to Moscow there to act as Allied goodwill broker.

Boake Carter Exposed

AMONG the dozens of writers, editors, newspapers and magazines exposed as enemies of labor by the 16th volume of the LaFollette Committee Hearings, one of the most important is Boake Carter.

Exhibit 3787—F. No. 18 is a letter from R. C. Bennet, president Chain Deliveries Express, sending Carter \$25 to "use at your discretion in the fight against the CIO."

Exhibit 3787—F. No. 50 is Boake Carter's letter to the notorious vigilante Citizens Committee of Johnstown, enclosing the check, adding "I trust you will acknowledge the beneficence of this American citizen who believes in law and order."

The Johnstown Committee was exposed as a strikebreaking agency subsidized by Bethlehem Steel.

Sideswiping the Facts

NO one reading the Saturday Evening Post article "Airport Number One" would realize that LaGuardia Field is one of the great achievements of the WPA.

The newspapers have suppressed the news, faked the news, and distorted the news about the WPA in order to attack it. Colliers refused to correct a fake story. Now the SEP glorifies the great airport but sideswipes the WPA with two passing references.

The fact is the government advanced \$27,430,322, New York City \$16,688,967, and that Work Projects Administration built the airport. A 100% honest story would have been a 100% WPA story.

Hence, particularly ominous, say these sources, are "non-military" conscription schemes; proposals among Treasury experts for outright gifts of 2 to 3 billion dollars to Allies to circumvent the Johnson Act; Dean Acheson's request for a voluntary lawyers' committee to draft war legislation ahead of time; Aubrey Williams' wish to buy equipment to train aviation mechanics, money to come from reductions of National Youth Administration rolls.

Roosevelt's "10% economy plan" also is accused of being part of the orderly progression toward war. United States News puts it bluntly: "Dollars that once were to be directed into investment in low-cost housing and health insurance and old-age pensions and hospitals will instead be invested in cannon and battle-ships and airplanes." Economy is, moreover, a scheme to squeeze peace advocates out of government positions, just as progressive lawyers were squeezed out of the NLRB for "economy" reasons.

Cost of defense, larger by far than the most ambitious proposals for social legislation in the past, will arouse much resentment, administration leaders fear. Therefore, they advocate utilization of hysteria, raising "Fifth Column" alarms against peace advocates. Accurately, the phrase "Fifth Column" means "treason in high places," declared the Los Angeles CIO council, "never treason of the workers." But war forces are perverting the meaning into its opposite to prevent analysis of defense plans.

U. S. Censors the News

Why does the U. S. government suppress vital news of what Americans think and desire?

Privately, the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture distributed a report on "Attitudes Toward the War" among the farmers. The memorandum, sent to 23 government officials, was not released to the press.

The undercover report revealed:

"We find that although 81% of the American farmers want us to stay out [of war]; only 30% think we will stay out; that 54% think we will get in, while only 15% indicate their willingness to have the U. S. enter the war."

Farmers named those forces they believe to be trying to involve this country:

Twenty per cent said, "Big shots have control (bankers, millionaires, etc.) and seek to make profits and loans—trying to maintain our foreign trade."

Fifteen per cent said, "Administration foreign policy—diplomatic entanglements—loans to Allies and Finland."

Nine per cent said, "Allied propaganda."

Elsewhere the report states that many farmers felt that "regardless of whether agricultural prices rose or not, the war would have a detrimental effect on agriculture."

In an urban survey, the Department discovered: "More than five times as many think the U. S. will enter than desire us to do so; although 89% want us to stay out, only 40% think we will. . . . Also, in answer to this question, 'How can we stay out?' only 3% made suggestions which might be interpreted as increasing our aid to the Allies beyond what it is considered to be at present."

IN FACT wants to know the reason for government hush-hushing what the people say?

Nazi "Secret Weapon"?

What is the much vaunted Nazi "secret weapon"? Can it be that instead of a new technical device, it is political, as Washington and London suspect? Is Spain a "secret weapon"?

Recently, Great Britain dispatched Sir Samuel Hoare as special envoy to Spain. Purpose: To prevent Falangists from forcing Spain to abandon its present neutrality.

Well-known to experts is the split existing between Franco, supported by the pro-British land-owning aristocracy (such as the Duke of Alba), and the pro-Italo-German Falangists headed by the Sumer group. Falangists, accepting fascist ideology of Mussolini and Hitler, see intriguing possibilities of sharing German loot if they side with the Nazis in the war. Franco partisans desire continuance of British trade, hence maintenance of Spanish neutrality.

But Franco, according to Herald Tribune's correspondent Robert Davis, one of the handful of reporters lately to visit Spain, "is imprisoned within an invisible wall . . . a palace guard holds him a virtual prisoner." He adds: "Spain is in a state of moral bewilderment, hesitancy, and uncertainty . . . they like a Fascist dictatorship not at all. In this turmoil, there is unusual military activity."

Public opinion had been prepared for Italy's entrance into the war—if Germany felt it could not deliver the death blow to France without Italian aid. Spain may be the material and psychological straw to break Allied resistance, causing diversion of French defense forces, providing a base for Italian invasion. It could break all-important French communications with its colonies and endanger Atlantic traffic. It would complete the encirclement of France.

Spain's entry has not as yet been given serious public consideration. One drawback for Hitler is the anti-fascist forces in the back country of about 75,000 armed men, fed by townspeople and peasants. Even so, Spain can well be one of Hitler's most menacing "secret weapons".

Patriotism or \$\$

BEHIND the hysterical campaign to "save the hemisphere" the big dollar signs of commercial rivalry are raising their golden heads. While "Nazi penetration" in the sense of Brownshirts plotting dictatorship in many South American countries is headlines in the newspapers, "Nazi penetration" in the shape of commercial rivalry is what bothers Big Business, the State Department, and the warmakers.

The Inter-America Bank, planned to unite the hemisphere in one financial system, has for its open objective the elimination of German business rivalry in the 21 Republics. Secretly it aims for British and other elimination also. Marquis Childs of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch says whoever wins the war, Europe will be desperate for grain, meat, raw materials, and America wants to control them. It might cost us millions. "But if this would tend to prevent the Nazi economic colonial conquest of Latin America it would be far cheaper, it is argued in the State Department, than any form of military protection."

Columnist Clapper points out that Brazil has the largest remaining iron ore supplies in the world; that the U. S. Steel Corp. dropped their exploitation because of "uncertainties," and that Nazi Germany might develop this industry now.

America's occupation, moral or military, of Brazil, to keep the iron ore deposits, would be in line with the oil company wars against Mexico and the use of Marines to collect National City and Chase National Bank loans.

Labor Applauds Its Defeat

ONE of the most tragic spectacles in the history of the progressive labor movement in America was furnished by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union at its convention in New York City, May 31. A. A. Berle, assistant Secretary of State, made a speech threatening workers with Fascist (or Nazi) control. The delegates applauded.

Introduced by President David Dubinsky, Berle began with the words "Fellow Workers," likewise applauded. He then spoke for Unity, Discipline, National Will. This slogan was first used by Mussolini.

Although Berle promises that no social gains won by labor will be lost now (in time of war preparation) the fact remains that Congress is considering destruction of every gain. But the most alarming threat made by Berle was a warning to labor not to try to take advantage of the times to extend their social gains.

"We in the State Department know no aliens" concluded Berle, who promised no alien-baiting. In view of the actions the President, the FBI, and Congress is taking against aliens, Berle's statement was either ignorance or knavery.

Nazi Movies

THE New York Post accepted paid advertising boosting the Nazi film which was shown prior to the Nazi invasion of Norway to intimidate big business men and army chiefs into capitulating. This Fifth Column film, now called "Bombs over Europe," is being displayed

in this country among German fascist groups to illustrate the might of Hitler. Other Nazi propaganda films, in ever increasing quantities, are being distributed, often by companies considered highly respectable in the trade.

Nazi cultural note: Anti-Semitic songs and strip-tease dancers have been introduced into Bund gatherings for the edification of the membership.

Labor Club Raided

THE war hysteria spy scare has not yet reached 1917 proportions but from all parts of the country come reports of attacks on civil liberties in the name of war preparations.

One of the worst episodes occurred on Memorial Day in New York when the Village 3rd A.D. Club of the American Labor Party, 622 Hudson Street, was raided by hoodlums led by American Legionnaires, uniformed, and armed with rifles.

The Labor Club was collecting signatures to a petition to the President to keep America at peace. The Legionnaires cursed, attacked, beat two men, man-handled women, smashed chairs, broke two plate glass windows, tore up the petitions and wrecked the club. The two injured men members were taken to a hospital.

Why did the newspapers, most instrumental in spreading the war scare, suppress this story?

Suppressed Generally

THE press release of the Federal Trade Commission which deals with fraudulent advertising and fraudulent goods which the American people are fooled, by advertising, into purchasing, tells of hundreds of orders, stipulations, complaints. Among the best known companies recently receiving "cease and desist" orders or entering into "stipulations" to desist, are: John F. Jelke Co., Good Luck Oleomargarine; Saks & Co., New York; Sears, Roebuck & Co.; MacFadden Book Co.; Thom McAn (shoes); Sempray Jovenay Co., facial cream.

Eight New York City newspapers suppress the news, one sometimes buries a few lines about these cases. We cannot find any mention in Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, etc. Any reader knowing the name of a newspaper not suppressing news, unfavorable to advertisers, please start our Honor Roll of the Press.

The Road to War

"THE War Department today asked agencies and advertisers to cooperate with its recruiting drive by using the following sentence in publication copy and radio scripts: 'We favor adequate preparedness for national defense and recommend enlistment in the United States Army to eligible young men.'"

—Advertising Age, May 27, 1940.

"While countless details of organization remain to be fixed and no formal definition has been given to the proceedings in Washington in the last few days, the financial district felt yesterday that 'M Day' (mobilization day) has arrived for all practical purposes and that recognition of the event as an actuality was being approached at a gallop."

—New York Times, May 22, 1940.

War Scare Against Latin America

Shortly after the Second World War began Roosevelt said: "In and out of Congress we have heard orators and commentators and others beating their breasts and proclaiming against sending the boys of American mothers to fight on the battlefields of Europe. That I do not hesitate to label as one of the worst fakes in current history. . . ."

What about Latin America, and especially Mexico? The present war scare is headed that way. "War's Spread to U. S. feared by Roosevelt" was the bannerline in the World-Telegram, May 31. The Times had "U. S. Is Studying Nazi Threat in South America" in an 8-column headline June 2. It was based on a vountary propaganda statement by General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff. The Herald Tribune, which wants us to fight in Europe, ran a 1-column head on this scare story on page 28.

It is this sort of newspaper handling which is a thousand times more dangerous than suppression of news. In this case the Times outdid the Herald in war-mongering. If there is a Nazi plot in South America, it is indeed sensational; but when newspapers play up statements, rumors, opinions—they are doing their bit in leading us into war. Bismarck once blamed the press for doing more to promote wars than any other institution.

"Hemisphere Defense" is the new slogan. But if you ask the government officials and newspaper editors of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, they say plainly this is a new catchword to replace Dollar Diplomacy, or the U. S. control of Latin American nations for the benefit of the oil, copper, meat and other business interests, and the bank loans. General Smedley Butler has admitted that he used the Marine Corps to collect money while subjugating Latin American nations. Roosevelt is supposed to have abolished the practice in 1933.

The economic penetration of Latin America is advocated by newspapers, columnists, radio commentators, and other makers (and changers) of public opinion. Edwin C. Hill disclosed that a Hemisphere Empire group is forming in the U. S. A., that "Empire Imperialism" is proposed, and that it is "all to the good." Columnist Clapper admits the blunt fact "we may have to be using American troops in the Western Hemisphere for protective occupation." Washington war-mongers, in other words, are willing to follow Hitler's plan of "protective" occupation of Norway, Denmark and Holland, for the Western Hemisphere.

War with Mexico First

The same forces, notably the Hearst and Chandler press, the 5c magazines, the Standard Oil Company propaganda machine, certain congressmen, the Dies Committee, the American bondholders in oil, copper, silver mines and ranches, who have succeeded in having the United States intervene in Mexico on many occasions, are clamoring for an invasion as the first step in Hemisphere Defense.

Mexican Government officials inform us that every uprising in Mexico since 1910 has been financed and inspired by: 1. American business interests; 2. the State Department; 3. the reactionary press. There can be no revolution in Mexico after the July elections unless the State Department approves it!

The oil companies want Almazan to seize the government by force and overthrow the Cardenas reforms. Dies falsifies the issue when he speaks of a "Left" uprising. The so-called "Left" does not have to rise; it is in power; it has the army, the guns, the government, and the support of the people. It is the people. The Dies crowd will do the uprising.

Buying a Rebellion

Mexican presidential candidate Almazan, former pro-Nazi, has been attempting to utilize American radio, newspapers, magazines for favorable publicity. The Brooklyn Tablet, Coughlinite paper, published high praise of Mexico's leading Fifth Columnist. The New York Times called him a "moderate leader," a "pro-democratic" force. Especially active is the Committee on Mexican Relations, a Standard Oil organization.

Sudden love for Almazan, Mexican democrats declare, is designed to prepare for his planned uprising, well-known to Washington, in the event he is defeated at the polls early in July. The revolt, if and when it comes, will be blamed on progressives, conveniently labeled "Fifth Column." Actually, they say, the democratic, popularly supported Cardenas majority is the strongest defense against Mexican fascism, but American oil interests, helping to finance Almazan, would welcome civil war in Mexico, hope the U. S. will send armed forces to establish oil-interest rule over the small country.

Mexican government officials point out that the situation parallels 1936 Spain. A reactionary spokesman, backed by foreign big business, plans a coup against the popular government. Foreign interests back the potential rebels. The U. S. is scheduled to play the role of Italy and Germany, setting up the rebels as puppets, using the slogan "Fifth Column" in place of the Franco slogan of "Reds."

Press War Against Mexico

The Mexico City El Popular, one of the two newspapers in the nation which is not commercial, not open to bribery from Germany, Britain, and American oil companies, headlines (translated): "The Yankee Press Opens a Ferocious 'War of Nerves' Against Mexico."

This campaign, charged to the news agencies and the newspapers and notably the New York Times, is held by El Popular to parallel exactly the German and Italian press campaigns against countries which Hitler and Mussolini have subsequently attacked. The United States press is accused of preparing the public for similar intervention in Mexico.

On the Home Front

The CIO points out that unemployment has increased by over a million since February to well over 11,500,000. Industrial production and all non-farm employment must rise 25% above the present levels, labor spokesmen say, to absorb the jobless. The federal government, however, has reduced its contributions to bolster purchasing power at home—the outlay for relief and other social security services is estimated at \$250 million monthly average in the first half of 1940 as compared with \$340 million in December, 1939, with further reductions contemplated for purposes of "defense." The Annalist remarked: "As compared with the peak month of December [1939] workers' wages will now buy about 13% less in terms of goods and services." Says the AF of L Monthly Survey of Business, "Any effort to increase national income must lay first emphasis on raising workers' buying power . . . This can be done in only one way: By increasing production of the goods and services needed by American families."

Reduced also were agricultural exports of tobacco, fruit, pork and lard below levels for normal years. Even cotton, which experienced a slight initial boom, is in danger of slacking off severely as the Allies seek supplies in the colonies. Farm exports except cotton fell 21% below 1938-39, costing farmers \$10,000,000 monthly. These difficulties arise from Allied efforts to conserve their dollar exchange by shifting purchases elsewhere, elimination of blockaded or invaded countries from the market, exclusion of American shipping from the war zones.

The Press: 98% Biased

Power to investigate is the power to destroy.

The La Follette Committee investigated the attack on the civil liberties of the people, notably the attack on labor. It aimed to destroy the system of industrial espionage, vigilantism, violence and frequently murder.

The Dies Committee, on the other hand, aims to destroy every liberal, labor, pro-labor and progressive movement in the United States by branding it "Red."

The La Follette Committee in its last stage investigated The Associated Farmers; it produced the documentary evidence of The Grapes of Wrath, tremendously sensational, though true.

The Dies Committee produced chiefly slander, hearsay, libel, and smears.

The press of America gave Dies the front page; it suppressed the La Follette story in most instances; a few papers ran a few paragraphs. About 2% of the press (notably the St. Louis Post Dispatch) was fair to La Follette.

The La Follette Committee was pro-labor; the Dies Committee is anti-labor. The press of America from Franklin's time on, has been anti-labor.

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FOR SUMMER ACTIVITY, WE SUGGEST: IN FACT

If you're going away for a weekend or vacation take IN FACT along and show it to your friends. Tell them it's a might fine antidote for summer press poisoning. And that 25c. worth (10 months—22 issues) will do a lot to cool off the emotional heat that is so prevalent these days in the press. You might also mention that IN FACT is guaranteed to penetrate superficialities, clichés, and demagoguery, and bring to the surface honest and reliable news, the kind newspapers dare not print.

You can also tell them that IN FACT is the special formula of George Seldes who is one of America's outstanding journalists. Although IN FACT is not endorsed by Good Housekeeping it does have the support of thousands of Americans who want a free press. When writing out names and addresses make sure they are clear. All coins must be securely wrapped so they will not rip through envelope.

Who Cares!

CONGRESSMAN Allen of Pennsylvania, when asked if his bill to deport Harry Bridges, West Coast labor leader, was not unconstitutional, replied, "It probably is; but let Bridges worry about that."

Reward for the Negroes

"SCIENCE Suggests Negroes Man Tanks and Submarines," headlines the World-Telegram, June 6, 1940. It has always been the Jim-Crow practice in America to reserve the dirtiest and heaviest jobs for Negro workers. Now, "science" in the person of Professor D. B. Dill of Harvard adds the most dangerous jobs as a reward, the professor points out, for winning points scored by Negroes in the last Olympic Games. "The fact that the United States won the track and field championship in the last Olympic Games should therefore be a source of comfort to us in the present world situation." And a source of alarm to Negroes not anxious to go to war.

The Nazis Find Beauty

IN an article entitled "Carrying Beauty into the Factory," the Nazis boast of bringing inspiration and comfort to German workshops. "The Workshop Beautiful is an important contribution of modern Germany to the social progress of our age," writes an enthusiastic follower of Hitler. Since workers must spend from sixty to eighty hours a week in the factories, the new beauty supposedly compensates for the miserably low pay they receive.

In addition, there is little beauty outside of factory walls. According to the Coordinating Committee Against Profiteering (New York) reports from Germany "paint a picture of almost unendurable misery. Coffee, fats, eggs, good soap, leather and coal are said to be nearly unobtainable by the majority. Even the potato supply gave out in many cities this winter. Clothes are rationed . . . Customers put their names on lists, and wait six weeks to have their shoes resoled."

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